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COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT

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TOPIC Field Exercises in the Loennewitz Area

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 17 September 1952

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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On 3 August 1952, an overhead two-wire telephone line on portable iron poles was under construction from the direction of Grossenhain along Liebenwerda in the direction of Loennewitz (N 52/E 04) as far as the Elbe River north of Belgern. Troops were seen moving westward. The principal movements, such as supply shipments, advance and transfer of command groups, were made at night. Trucks [ ] were seen on the Liebenwerda-Torgau road on 4 August. Troop units bivouaced in the woods north of Falkenberg, at the Kiebitz estate, in the woods near Loennewitz and Kossdorf and in Neuburxdorf. The bivouac areas were secured according to wartime methods. At 10:30 p.m. on 5 August, these units advanced toward the west. Manned personnel carriers, but no guns were seen. [ ] trucks towing guns on the Falkenberg-Torgau road. At 10:40 p.m., a column was seen in Strehla, moving toward Torgau. The vehicles proceeded with dimmed lights. Eight sedans and 78 trucks were counted. Imprints indicated that the unit had bivouacked in the woods near Loennewitz and had advanced on the cross-country road south of Koetten. [ ] three field bunkers covered with earth and brushwork at the bivouac near Neuburxdorf. [ ] a unit with regimental strength had been in the area of Neuburxdorf and Muehlberg on 7 August. Elements of this unit allegedly were ferried across the Elbe River to the Muehlberg and Belgern areas. Motorized elements advanced on the Strehla-Torgau road toward Torgau and allegedly moved up to the bivouac area during the night on 3 August. The telephone line was removed during the night on 9 August. \*

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\* Comment. The observations [ ] check with information reported [ ] and also confirm the trains which left the area of Torgau-Milenburg-Mockrehna during the period from 7 to 9 August 1952.

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[ ] the reports received on the field exercise in the Finsterwalde-Wittenberg area indicates that, beginning about 12 July 1952, the signal communications net for the headquarters conducting the Finsterwalde field exercise was being established. This headquarters was possibly located in the Burgerheide (heath) area just west of Finsterwalde. Headquarters, signal units, AAA units and AT units arrived during the period from 20 to 30 July and, probably in two

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separate groups, made ready to attack across the Elbe River east of Torgau and northeast of Jittenberg. The headquarters activities during the period of assembly was probably practiced for one week, during which no noticeable movements were made. The headquarters and units involved withdrew toward the Elbe River in the evening of 5 August and were ferried across the river toward the west, followed by a simulated pursuit. No other river crossings were observed. It was not possible to determine to what extent the engineer units practicing in the area of JITTENBERG-DESSAU participated in this field exercise. There is a possibility that elements of the Fourth Gds Pecz Army in the area north of Halle were employed as enemy forces against the units which crossed the Elbe River toward the west.

Corment (h) to [redacted] Motor vehicle columns which passed through Bernburg in the direction of Koethen on 6 August, may have belonged to those elements of the Fourth Gds Pecz Army. See

It is also believed that the advance from the west toward the area of Dessau of this enemy group set off the movements observed from the east through Jittenberg as far as the area west of Dessau. From 4 until 7 August, [redacted]

The field exercise was apparently terminated on 13 August. [redacted]

[redacted] rail movements indicated that the units involved included command headquarters of the GCM as well as signal units of the group, the IV Arty Corps with units of the three IAF divisions and elements of all army headquarters and headquarters units, with the elements of the Fourth Gds Pecz Army possibly functioning as the enemy group.